

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hammond, County of St. Lawrence and the State of New York was held at the Town Office Building, 21 South Main Street, Hammond, NY on the 27th day of September 2023.

PRESENT: Ronald Bertram - Town Supervisor
James Tague - Councilmember
James Furgison - Deputy Supervisor
ABSENT: James Pitcher - Councilmember
Theodore Elk - Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk Pamela Burton.

Notice of said meeting was duly sent to Watertown Daily Times on September 18, 2023 and posted at www.townofhammondny.com.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

BUDGET

1. The clerk delivered the 2024 Tentative Budget to the Town Board. Supervisor Bertram read each line of the budget with explanation. The bottom line is \$152,874.00, which is around \$7,200k over the allowable 2% tax cap.
 - a. The Town Board discussed several parts of the budget's revenues and expenditures including but not limited to a 2% salary increase for employees and raising budgets for mailing, animal control, and snow removal. Sales tax and justice revenues have increased.
 - b. The Town Board discussed the Superintendent's request for a new excavator and/or skid steer. The Board believes it to be more beneficial to rent or share service for an excavator but will consider a skid steer from CHIPs for 2024. In the budget there is \$180,000 for the new truck.
 - c. Supervisor Bertram said by putting the last sales tax check into the 2023 fund balance, he can raise the fund balance for 2024 and that will cover the budget increase for the allowable 2%.
2. **Motion** to set the Public Hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget on November 8, 2023 at 7:15pm by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague. The motion carried 3 ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Bertram followed up with Dan Moyer on the dog bite complaint, which was brought to the Boards' attention at the last regular meeting. Warden Moyer called Polly Rue and explained the procedure and results.
2. Supervisor Bertram told the Board that the bond closing paperwork delivered to the clerk for signatures on September 25th was being scrapped by the government and a whole new set of documents are being drawn up. Going pass the October 1st deadline will increase the loan interest by 1%, but Supervisor Bertram say the plan is to pay off sooner.

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3. Councilmember Tague said Gary Maloy is interested in building the property line fence for 21 S. Main St. and asked the dimensions. The Board agreed 80' long and either 4' or 5' high and made out of wood.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Bertram adjourned meeting at 7:25pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by _____, Town Clerk